

Appendix W

Forest Service Alternative D Language



This Page Intentionally Blank

Version 1 - Revised as of 8/15/13

**Draft Standards and Guidelines for GRSG Amendment for the Land and
Resource Management Plans in Idaho and Southwest Montana for the
Preferred Alternative - Alternative D**

Boise National Forest

Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest

Caribou-Targhee National Forest

Curlew National Grassland

Salmon-Challis National Forest Service

Sawtooth National Forest

Note – all of the following standards and guideline apply to all GRSG habitat unless a specific Management Area is identified.

D-SSS-1: Greater Sage-grouse Management Area Designation

Designate Preliminary Priority Management Areas (PPMA), Preliminary Medial Management Areas (PMMA), and Preliminary General Management Areas (PGMA) (see Table 2-18).

PPMA includes areas that have the highest conservation value to GRSG. Key characteristics include areas of higher lek attendance and lek connectivity, lower habitat fragmentation, important movement corridors and winter habitat. PMMA includes areas of moderate to high conservation value to GRSG that are generally adjacent to PPMA's but reflect reduced GRSG population and/or habitat characteristics. PGMA is occupied (seasonal or year-round) habitat outside of PPMA and PMMA.

D-WFM-1: Wildfire Suppression Standard

Having provided for firefighter and public safety, property protection, and threatened and endangered species habitat protection, PPMA is the highest priority for conservation during fire suppression decision making, followed by PMMA and then PGMA. Suppress wildland fires in intact GRSG habitats and utilize appropriate management response where needed to restore, enhance, maintain and improve GRSG habitat.

D-LG/RM-16: Livestock Grazing Standard

Manage grazing permits to maintain vegetation composition (including riparian and lentic areas) and structure consistent with appropriate GRSG seasonal habitat objectives relative to site potential.

D-LG/RM-35: Fence Construction Guideline

Avoid building new permanent fences within 2 km of occupied leks, high density fence areas or winter concentration areas. If this is not feasible, ensure that high risk segments are marked with collision diverter devices or as latest science indicates. Utilize temporary fencing (e.g., ESR, drop down fencing) where applicable and appropriate to meet management objectives.

D-LG/RM-43: New Livestock Water Developments Standard

New water developments must benefit, maintain, or have a neutral effect on PPMA and PMMA (such as by shifting livestock use away from critical areas). New developments that divert surface water in PPMA, PMMA and PGMA must be designed to maintain integrity and functionality of riparian or wetland vegetation and hydrology.

D-RC-3: Recreation Special Use Permit Seasonal Restrictions Standard

Incorporate seasonal restrictions for authorized activities to minimize impacts to GRSG and/or their habitat.

D-RC-4: Recreation Sites and Activities Standard

Design and manage recreation activities and developed recreation sites and facilities within lands not designated as a recreation management area to minimize adverse effects to GRSG by directing use away from sensitive areas.

D-TM-10: Winter Travel Restriction Standard

Limit snow machine travel to existing routes in GRSG wintering areas from November 1 through March 31.

D-LR-1: Solar and Wind Energy Development Restriction Standard

In PPMA - Do not authorize solar and wind energy development in PPMA. In PMMA - Do not allow solar and wind energy development where adverse effects cannot be mitigated. Ancillary facilities such as roads, electric lines, etc. may be authorized provided there is no net loss of GRSG habitat through mitigation. In PGMA - Avoid authorizing solar and wind energy development.

D-LR-3: New ROW, Easement, and Land Special Use Permit Restriction Standard

In PPMA, do not authorize new transmission facilities greater than 50kV, wind energy testing and development, commercial solar development, commercial geothermal development, nuclear development, oil and gas development, mineral development, airports, ancillary facilities associated with any of the aforementioned development, paved roads and graded gravel roads, landfills or hydroelectric projects.

In PPMA, PMMA and PGMA, unless otherwise restricted, avoid authorizing new permanent ROW, easement and land special uses. Land authorizations that are temporary in nature (e.g., film permits,

apiaries), that do not result in loss of GRSG habitat are exempt from mitigation requirements regarding habitat loss (except for timing restrictions). Site new authorizations or facilities, not otherwise excluded, outside the 3 km (1.86 miles) occupied lek avoidance buffer areas unless a greater or lesser distance is required, based on topographic features or other mitigating factors. If new distribution lines cannot be sited outside the 3 km buffer, they should be buried or designed to minimize use by avian predators.

In PPMA and PMMA, new ROW, easement, and land use authorizations may not result in a net loss of GRSG habitat.

D-LR-17: Land Ownership Adjustment Guideline

Retain public ownership of GRSG habitat. Allow consideration of Federal land sale or exchange where there is mixed ownership and land exchanges would allow for additional or more contiguous federal ownership patterns within GRSG habitat.

Allow consideration of land exchanges containing historically low-quality GRSG habitat in exchange for lands of higher quality habitat, lands that connect seasonal GRSG habitats or lands providing for threatened and endangered species. These potential exchanges should lead to an increase in the extent or continuity of or provide for improved connectivity of GRSG habitat. Higher priority will be given to exchanges for those intact areas of sagebrush that will contribute to the expansion of PPMA sagebrush areas currently in public ownership. Lower priority will be given to those lands that will promote enhancement in PPMA and PGMA areas.

D-MLS-12: Fluid Minerals Lease Restrictions Standard

In PPMA and PMMA, do not allow new leases in areas of no and low potential for the discovery of fluid minerals (see Table 2-18). In areas of moderate and high potential for the discovery of fluid minerals, allow leasing and require CSU, timing restrictions in breeding and winter habitat, disturbance density not to exceed 1/640 acres, maximum 3% disturbance/section, and NSO within 0.6 mile of occupied or undetermined status leks.

In PGMA, allow leasing and require:

- Timing limitations in breeding and winter habitat,
- 0.6 mile NSO near occupied and undetermined status leks, and
- Implementation of appropriate BMPs.

D-MLS-13: Fluid Minerals Geophysical Exploration Timing Restriction Standard

Apply seasonal timing restrictions to exploration activities.

D-MLM-3: Locatable Minerals Mitigation Standard

In PMMA, require off-site mitigation if effects to GRSG PPMA habitat are unavoidable.

D-MSM-1: Common Variety Mineral Materials Standard

Do not authorize new common variety mineral pits within 3 km of an occupied lek (see Table 2-18). Require seasonal timing restrictions on both new and existing community pits.

D-MNL-1: Non-Energy Minerals New Lease Restrictions Standard

In PPMA and PMMA – Do not allow prospecting or new leases (see Table 2-18) except for lease modifications and fringe leases where valid existing rights may be affected. In PPMA, PMMA and PGMA where leasing is allowed, require CSU, timing restrictions and CSU.

D-MNL-2: Non-Energy Minerals New Lease Restrictions Standard

For existing (undeveloped) and new non-energy mineral leases, require timing restrictions (seasonal and daily) when exploration activities or initial mine development is proposed, as appropriate. Also require restoration of habitat or off-site mitigation, if on-site restoration is not feasible.

D-MSE-2: Surface Disturbance Standard for Non-federal Subsurface Minerals

In PPMA, where the federal government owns the surface, and the mineral estate is in non-federal ownership, require the mineral estate owner to apply a timing restriction stipulation, COAs, and restrict activities within 3 km (1.86 miles) of an occupied lek, when concurring to the approval of authorizations for mineral-related surface disturbance.